

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00159 191420Z

66

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /065 W

----- 023763

R 191240Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3835

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: CURRENT SITUATION IN ASMARA

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REF: ASMARA 0122 (DTG 111325Z FEB 76)

1. PERIOD FROM MID-JANUARY TO PRESENT HAS BEEN MOST QUIET
SINCE MAY-JUNE 1975. CURRENT ATMOSPHERE, WHILE STILL SOMEWHAT
UNCERTAIN, HAS BEEN DEVOID OF EVEN ONE SHOT DURING EVENING
CURFEW. PREVAILING ATTITUDE AMONG ERITREANS CONCERNING CALM
IS THAT INSURGENTS ARE DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES AND ARE THEREFORE
INCAPABLE OF LAUNCHING DETERMINED EFFORT AGAINST EPMG. RUMORS
ARE WIDESPREAD OF DEMOTIONS, EXPULSIONS, AND EXECUTIONS OF FORMER
ELF AND PLF LEADERS. SUCH RUMORS TEND TO CONFIRM ERITREANS'
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BELIEF THAT INSURGENTS CURRENTLY UNABLE LAUNCH EFFORTS AGAINST

MAJOR EPMG TARGETS IN ERITREA.

2. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, ERITREANS ARE PLEASED ALTHOUGH APPREHENSIVE ABOUT CURRENT UNCERTAIN SITUATION IN ADDIS ABABA. MOST ERITREANS BELIEVE THAT THE GOALS OF AUTONOMY WILL ONLY BE GAINED IN THE SHORT RUN BY CONCESSIONS MADE FROM ADDIS. THEREFORE THEY ARE HOPEFUL THAT CONTINUING DISRUPTIONS IN COUNTRYSIDE, COMBINED WITH POWER STRUGGLE IN

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ADDIS, WILL EVENTUALLY CONVINCE EPMG TO GRANT ERITREANS MEASURE OF AUTONOMY NECESSARY TO DEFUSE COSTLY COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS.

SHERRY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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